

CONFIDENTIAL

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20 December 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: D/FBIS Visit to Austrian Bureau, 1-5 December 1978

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Austrian Bureau benefits from strong staffing and leadership. Its relations with the Station and Embassy are excellent. There are no serious operational or personnel problems, but [] will thoroughly review opportunities for reducing this bureau's relatively high costs. []

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Geneva Plan/Cheap Receivers

Three German stations now interfere with Budapest medium-wave reception during hours of darkness, but fortunately Hungary, like some other Eastern European countries, is establishing FM networks which carry national programming and can be picked up by Vienna, on fixed frequency, relatively cheap receivers. Vienna's example again raises the question of why other bureaus cannot use a limited number of relatively low-cost, maintenance-free, possibly fixed frequency receivers.

Post-Tito Yugoslavia Coverage

The three-person Serbo-Croatian team in Vienna should be maintained and augmented in a crisis to avoid dependence on the VCVC which is not entirely reliable. [] will submit a paper on what Vienna work could be transferred to London or the U.S. to save money, but he will recommend against transferring Yugoslav coverage for this reason. BBC agrees.

Hungarian Press Service

[] that we can live with
MTI.

Soviet Nationality Question

Vienna says Kiev Ukraine and Russian services carry almost nothing unique on this issue. The bureau will take another look at Moldavia.

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